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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1908.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND CONGRESS.

President Roosevelt's latest message to Congress is a voluminous paper, and covers in the executive's usual vigorous and sermonesque style practically every subject with which the States or the nation are likely to be called upon to deal.

The greatest portion of the document is made up of reiterations of the President's views which heretofore have been expressed in similar communications and in open letters to individuals.

His treatise upon the problem of corporations and how to deal with them contains nothing radically different from recommendations sent to Congress in other annual messages. A single exception may be noted in the paragraph relating to telegraph and telephone companies. These corporations, Mr. Roosevelt declares, should be placed upon a common footing with transportation lines and come under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission. This proposition would seem to be eminently just, at least so far as interstate communication is concerned.

At little less than two years ago the telegraph companies, without being accountable to any department of the government, increased their rates of toll in amounts varying from 25 to 60 per cent. No transportation company in recent years has dared attempt any such extortion. Nor would the telegraph companies have resorted to this piracy had they been under the restrictions of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The President emphasizes his disregard for States' rights, and charges that those who protest against Federal encroachment upon the powers of the States are playing into the hands of predatory wealth. He does not qualify his denunciation of States' rights advocates—at least so far as Southerners are concerned—when he says: "Of course there are many sincere men who now believe in unrestricted individualism in business, just as there were formerly many sincere men who believed in slavery." These men by themselves do not have great weight, however. The President asserts that the opposition to effective control of corporate wealth is chiefly under cover of an appeal to States' rights. Unquestionably the last proposition is true in some cases. But because the appeal to States' rights is unworthily employed in isolated cases, hardly justifies Mr. Roosevelt in repudiating and exhorting the doctrine in its entirety.

The executive takes a commendable stand with relation to the navy. Opposition to his recommendation for the authorizing of four battleships of the Delaware class at the present session of Congress is said to have already begun to manifest itself, particularly among Democratic members of Congress.

This fact, if fact it be, may be accepted as forecasting that the Democratic party in Congress will continue its assinine tactics of the past seven

years, namely: determined opposition to every popular measure recommended by the Republican President, and quiescence in or a bare nominal resistance to Republican policies which do not appeal to the people.

The same congressmen of both parties who will exhaust every resource to prevent the upbuilding of the national defense, may be depended upon to sit silently in their seats, or to absent themselves while every variety of private jobbery goes through as though greased.

EPITHET ISN'T ARGUMENT, MR. ROOSEVELT.

Whatever be the disclosures following President Roosevelt's reply, worded mostly in the vernacular of epithet, to the charges concerning the Panama canal deal, there is small possibility that he will ever be induced to acknowledge that he was either hasty, intemperate or in the wrong.

The President declared that "the United States did not pay a cent of the \$40,000,000 to any American citizen. The government paid the \$10,000,000 direct to the French government, getting the receipt of the liquidator appointed by the French government to receive the same."

The New York World, in challenging the foregoing statement has this to say, and in all essential respects backs up its position in an extended article:

"As to the detailed distribution of the Panama loot, only one man knows it all. And that man is William Nelson Cromwell. The two men who were most in Mr. Cromwell's confidence are Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, and Elihu Root, former secretary of war and now secretary of state. It was they who aided Mr. Cromwell in consummating the Panama revolution, arranged the terms of the purchase of the Panama Canal, made the agreement to pay \$40,000,000 on the canal properties and an additional \$10,000,000 for a manufactured Panama republic, every penny of both of which sums was paid by check on the United States treasury to J. P. Morgan & Co.—not to the French government, as Mr. Roosevelt says, but to J. P. Morgan & Co."

The World also quotes Senator Dague, a distinguished citizen of Panama as follows:

"Mr. Cromwell made the revolution. He offered to make me president of the new republic and to see me through if I would raise a small force of men and declare a secession from Colombia. He made promises that we should have the help of his government. It was accomplished by a liberal use of money. We bought this general and that one, paying \$3,000 to \$4,000 per general. The Colombian officers were all paid off and the Colombian general who was sent to stop the revolution was also bought off."

Very likely Mr. Roosevelt will never be brought to a realization of the fact, but something in addition to shouts of "You're a liar," "You're a mendacious perverter of truth and decency" will be necessary to successfully refute such charges as are contained in the foregoing quotations.

POPULAR BRITISH AMBASSADOR.

Hon. James Bryce, ambassador to the United States from Great Britain, is a composite type rarely to be found in the diplomat. He is a skilled diplomatist, a scholar of renown and a splendid "mixer." Mr. Bryce easily is the most popular foreign envoy in this country at the present time, and perhaps of any other time.

Unostentatiously entering the Southern Commercial Congress at Washington on Tuesday last with the intention of taking his place amongst the spectators, Ambassador Bryce received the most rousing ovation accorded to any one since the sessions began. In response to a persistent call, the ambassador delivered an impromptu address, which was the feature of the occasion.

His utterances were peculiarly appropriate to the occasion and manifested the warmest sympathy with the people of the South, their ideals and ambitions.

Mr. Bryce has visited the South and knows her people. The Southerners believe they know Mr. Bryce and are ready to accord him a hearty welcome whenever he shall find it convenient to drop over on this side of the Mason and Dixon line.

CONGRESSMEN MAD.

Resent President's Pointed Allusions To Corruption Among Them.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—About the only thing in the last annual message of President Roosevelt talked about by members of the two houses of Congress yesterday was that portion relating to the secret-service branch

Peyser Says:



Owing to the Very Backward Season He Finds His Stock of

Men's Suits and Overcoats

Too great a load to carry, hence he has determined to inaugurate a

Mid-Season Unloading Sale

In which he offers his stock of high grade Suits and Overcoats for the next 20 days at



20 Per Cent. Discount

From their former prices. The sale begins today, December 10th. This gives all a golden opportunity to save considerable money on your purchases and provides a means for economic Christmas Gifts for the men. The following scale will show the wonderful saving you can make in the heart of the season:

\$27.50 Suits and Overcoats, now	\$22.00	\$20.00 Suits and Overcoats, now	\$16.00
\$25.00 Suits and Overcoats, now	\$20.00	\$18.00 Suits and Overcoats, now	\$14.40
\$22.50 Suits and Overcoats, now	\$18.00	\$15.00 Suits and Overcoats, now	\$12.00
\$12.50 Suits and Overcoats, now	\$10.00		

YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS

MID-SEASON UNLOADING SALE

OF THE FINEST CLOTHING MADE. As you are aware, the models are the newest creations—the qualities superb—all backed by our personal guarantee. The entire stock of Men's Suits and Overcoats, consisting of Blacks and Blues, as well as Fancies, are included in this Sale. Positively no goods charged. No goods sent on approval.

Remember This Sale Continues for 20 Days, Beginning With Today, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10th.

2715 Washington Ave. Newport News

of the Treasury and the alleged chain of impositions that Congress placed upon the appropriations for that bureau, so that these disclosures could not be utilized to investigate the affairs of Congressmen themselves. It is idle to attempt to conceal the fact that both senators and members of the House are indignant over the language used by the President, and while none would discuss the matter for publication, many privately asserted that the President went on a mission to arraign Congress.

Cochran May Answer.

It was understood last night that Representative Bourke Cochran, of New York, would rise to a question for which Mr. Cochran and others contend are unwarranted conclusions regarding the motives that actuated Congress in enacting the legislation of which the President complains.

In the Senate active steps were taken by one of the most influential Republican senators to take official notice of these references in the President's message to Congress. This senator held several conferences with the veterans of that body, suggesting the advisability of passing a resolution of censure or in some other way officially putting the Senate

in a position of condemnation of the President. In the present form, the restrictive measures only to the advantage of the general or the wrongdoer. The chief argument in favor of the proposition was that the Congressmen did not wish to be investigated by the secret service men.

Very little of such investigation has been done in the past, but it is true that the work of the secret service men was partly responsible for the indictment and conviction of a senator and a congressman for land frauds in Oregon.

I do not believe that it is in the public interest to protect criminals in any branch of the public service and exactly as we have again and again during the past seven years presented and convicted such criminals who were in the executive branch of the government. In many instances we should be given ample opportunity to prosecute them if found in the legislative branch.

But if this is not considered desirable, a special exception could be made in the law prohibiting the use of the secret service force in investigating members of Congress.

Printed copies were laid on the desks of members, which enabled them to follow the text and recount largely for the slight attention given to the official reading. In both the House and the Senate there was a large attendance when the reading of the message commenced, but members soon tired and drifted off into committee and cloak rooms, where they might be more comfortable and even the leaves of the printed copies at their leisure. The document was read in full in the House and as it consisted of 44 closely printed pages the tax upon both the clerks and the patience of those listening was somewhat severe.

In the Senate the situation was eased up in a measure, as the word

was passed to the reading clerk to skip pages here and there. This unofficial advice was accepted with alacrity, and the message was read much after the fashion of disposing of long appropriation bills, the reading clerk following the text only where he thought he might be closely watched. This watching, however, was not particularly apparent yesterday.

Illustrations Are Shown. For the first time in history an annual message was accompanied by illustrations. By way of emphasizing the recommendations relative to the conservation of natural resources and with particular reference to the denudation of the forests, ten pictures were presented, showing the effect of deforestation. The scenes were laid in China, the President pointing out that the present policy in America inevitably was leading in the same result.

The message gives no indication of any recession on the part of the President from these ideas that have come to be known as the "Roosevelt Policies." He reiterates all that has been said heretofore, and urges that those things recommended to that first session be given serious consideration and enacted into law at the

next session. Members who have read the message say there is in it nothing that is distinctly new.

Domestic Economy.

They had automobile in 21 miles to see Mr. Highflyer's pet oculist, and on the return three tires, one after another hobbled up. Whereupon Mrs. Highflyer remarked, plaintively, and with intense conviction: "My dear Auld, it would have been so much cheaper to have kept you at home and bought you a glass eye!"

Real Estate.

"If you have the credulity to think your face is clean after you have carried it all over New York," said the business woman, "put a lot of cold cream on it, then wipe it off with a clean cloth. The amount of genuine soil you will find on that cloth will fill you with astonishment."—New York Press.

Think of This.

Think over the worrying you did yesterday. It certainly did you no good, but it certainly did you harm. Think of this the next time you feel grumpy.—Atchison Globe.